UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/20
9 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention the following instances of violations by Iraq of the terms of the ceasefire between the two countries.

1. On 5 July 1996, seven Iraqi motor boats, carrying 22 individuals, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud.

2. On 12 July 1996, five Iraqi tanks were observed near the geographic coordinates of 38 SQA 6800012000 on the map of Saeedieh, in no man's land.

3. On 13 July 1996, at 2040 hours, the Iraqi forces stationed near the geographic coordinates of 38 SND 4270005900 on the map of Khosravi, opposite the Iraqi Manzarieh sentry post, began to install an automatic machine-gun.

4. On 13 July 1996, a number of Iraqi smugglers aboard a boat in Houralhoveizeh were intercepted by the Iranian boundary police approximately 600 metres east of the Shahid Asadpoor sentry post. Coming under heavy fire of the Iranian guards, the smugglers retreated into Iraqi territory.

5. On 14 July 1996, at 0800 hours, the Iraqi forces installed a communication device with a receiving antenna on the roof of the Manzarieh customs office.

6. On 19 July 1996, at 0100 hours, the Iraqi forces stationed at the Doleh Sharif sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5580043200 on the map of Sumar, in no man's land, between north and south of the border pillars 43 and 44, in the area of Mian Tang, fired a number of shots which hit the Iranian territory in the same area near border pillar 44 on Iranian Kohneh-Rig Heights.

7. On 20 July 1996, 51 Iraqi motor boats and six launches and tugboats, carrying 170 individuals, were observed patrolling the Arvand Rud.

8. On 21 July 1996, at 2230 hours, five anti-revolutionary elements, armed with Kalashnikov rifles and RPG-7, fired at the security guards of the Paveh radio and TV station. When they were encountered by the guards, they retreated

into Iraq, kidnapping a driver and his car belonging to the Paveh Agriculture Office, as well as a retired revolutionary guard. They killed the guard at the Shahoo Heights close to the Iraqi border and set the car on fire. The fate of the driver is still unknown.

9. On 21 July 1996, a number of Iraqi armed smugglers positioned at Zahirieh marshlands, Hoveizeh District, were intercepted by Iranian boundary police and as a result five of them were wounded and another was killed. Later, the boundary police, guided by one of the detainees, in pursuing the smugglers destroyed a boat belonging to the smugglers and killed and wounded several others. The rest escaped into Iraqi territory. Among the casualties was an Iraqi intelligence officer, identified as Ali Mazi. Mazi's deputy was among the smugglers and was hospitalized in Ahvaz. Two other detainees are members of the so-called "Khusistan Liberation Front".

10. On 23 July 1996, the Iranian boundary police pursued five anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory and entered the border village of Zarvar, Baneh district. As a result of the clash, one of the intruders, named Rahim Ghaderzadeh, was killed and four others managed to escape back into Iraqi territory.

11. On 28 July 1996, at 1700 hours, seven anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory were seen near the village of Gomarlang, Marivan District. Following the reaction of the Iranian boundary police, they escaped back into Iraqi territory.

12. On 28 July 1996, at 1510 hours, one Iraqi crane was observed at the geographic coordinates of 38S TP 5590019700 on the map of Khorosabad pulling up one sunken tugboat from the Arvand Rud.

13. On 30 July 1996, 20 anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory clashed with the Iranian boundary police at the border village of Mir-Hessam, Baneh District. They were forced to escape back into Iraqi territory.

14. On 30 July 1996, a number of Iraqi armed smugglers were intercepted by the Iranian forces. As a result, the smugglers fled into Iraqi territory through Houralhoveizeh.

15. On 31 July 1996, at 2021 hours, an Iraqi anti-aircraft gun, installed at Ras-Albisheh, located at the entrance of Faw in Arvand Rud, fired into air.

16. On 31 July 1996, at 2100 hours, the anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border threw a hand grenade towards the Finance and Economic Affairs Office in the city of Sardasht. There were no casualties.

17. On 31 July 1996, between 20 and 40 anti-revolutionary elements crossed the border and headed towards the village of Hossein-Nooran, Oshnavieh District. Pursued by the Iranian boundary police, they escaped back into Iraqi territory.

18. On 1 August 1996, the Iraqi forces installed a derrick 30m to 35m high at the geographic coordinates of 38S TP 5970018800 on the map of Faw, in no man's land.

19. On 4 August 1996, at 2000 hours, 30 anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory entered the border village of Bardehrash, Baneh District. They threatened and extorted the villagers and escaped back into Iraqi territory.

20. On 4 August 1996, at 2000 hours, 15 anti-revolutionary elements crossed the border and entered the border village of Daroola. They threatened and extorted the villagers and escaped back into Iraqi territory.

21. On 4 August 1996, a column of Iraqi military vehicles was observed moving from the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3500064000 on the map of Naft-Shahr to the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 3500059000 on the map of south-east Naft-Shahr, south-west of border pillar 46.

22. On 7 August 1996, at 1600 hours, a number of anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border were intercepted by the Iranian boundary police in the Sirra-Baneh Heights. As a result, one of the intruders was killed and the others managed to escape back into Iraqi territory.

23. On 9 August 1996, a number of anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory entered the village of Dah-Vazna, Marivan District, and kidnapped one of the villagers. They murdered him in the village of Palangan on 16 August 1996.

24. On 14 August 1996, six anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory entered the village of Sarv-Abad, Marivan District, at the geographic coordinates of 38S PE 2500009500 on the map of Baneh. They threatened and extorted the local people before leaving the village.

25. On 15 August 1996, at 1600 hours, Iraqi forces fired at a motor boat belonging to the Iranian Navy, moving at the geographic coordinates of 48 43 E 0029 50 00 N.

26. On 17 August 1996, at 0530 hours, a number of smugglers who had crossed the border into Iranian territory were intercepted by the Iranian boundary police at the geographic coordinates of 38S QA 7100091000 on the map of Saeedieh. As a result, seven smugglers were killed and the others managed to escape back into Iraqi territory.

27. On 17 August 1996, at 0530 hours, one Iraqi loader was observed working at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5100043000 on the map of Sumar, west of border pillar 44/1.

28. On 17 August 1996, 16 anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory were seen near the village of Piaran, Marivan District. Pursued by the Iranian boundary police, they escaped back into Iraqi territory.

29. On 17 August 1996, the Iranian forces intercepted 30 anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border into Iranian territory 14km north of border pillar 98/2 and Hang Zhal. As a result of a 15-minute clash, an Iranian force was wounded and those elements escaped into Iraqi territory.

30. On 19 August 1996, at 2200 hours, a number of anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border were intercepted by Iranian boundary police stationed at the village of Valissa, Marivan District, opposite the Iraqi city of Panjvein. As a result, one of the elements was killed, one Iranian policeman was martyred and another was wounded.

31. On 22 August 1996, at 0800 hours, two Iraqi vehicles were observed excavating at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4300069000 on the map of Naft-Shahr, west of the Konehkabood river in no man's land.

32. On 22 August 1996, 20 Iraqi personnel were observed patrolling at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4100009000 on the map of Khosravi in no man's land, between south and north of border pillars 54 and 55 and the Iraqi Almeghdad sentry post and the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 6400017000 on the map of Kharatha, Agh Dagh mountain, west of border pillar 57/8.

33. On 24 August 1996, at 1300 hours, Iraqi personnel installed a tent near the digging derricks, at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 5400038000 on the map of Sumar.

34. On 24 August 1996, Iranian personnel observed an Iraqi loader levelling the embankments at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4550098500 on the map of Khosravi.

35. On 25 August 1996, at 0945 hours, a number of Iraqi armed smugglers, aboard 10 boats, trespassed the Iranian border at the geographic coordinates of 38S QA 580073000 on the map of Houralhoveizeh, 3,500 metres south-east of border pillar 14B. They escaped into Iraqi territory when confronted with the Iranian border police.

36. On 26 August 1996, at 2020 hours, Iranian military personnel intercepted a number of Iraqi armed smugglers at Houralhoveizeh. As a result, an Iranian police guard was wounded and the smugglers escaped into Iraqi territory.

37. On 28 August 1996, at 0900 hours, Iraqi forces installed a long-range cannon on the Khaneghein silo, near the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 3700004000 on the map of north-east Khosrav_.

38. On 2 September 1996, a number of anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border were intercepted by the Iranian boundary police in the village of Barda-Gol, Piranshahr District. As a result, one of the intruders was killed.

39. On 5 September 1996, at 0950 hours, six high-ranking Iraqi military officers, aboard two vehicles, visited the Manzarieh sentry post, opposite the Khosravi area.

40. On 6 September 1996, at 1700 hours, Iraqi forces installed a dushka automatic machine-gun on the Al-Hossein sentry post at the geographic coordinates of 38S ND 4000014000 on the map of west Khosravi, west of border pillar 57.

41. On 6 September 1996, two members of the Iranian boundary police were wounded at the Tangeh-Tojal Heights by an explosion of mines planted by the anti-revolutionary elements who had crossed the border and entered Iranian territory.

42. On 9 September 1996, at 0820 hours, an Iraqi loader was observed excavating at the geographic coordinates of 38S NC 4590099200 and 38S NC 4340097200 on the map of Khosravi.

It would be highly appreciated if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/21
10 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 2 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the composition of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

The Governments of Estonia and Denmark have proposed to replace on a temporary basis two Danish military observers of UNTSO by two Estonian military observers. This is in the framework of the two States' cooperation in the field of peacekeeping.

Following the usual consultations, I propose that Estonia be added to the list of Member States providing military observers to UNTSO.

I should be grateful if you could bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-00672 (E) 100197 110197

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/22
10 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 2 January 1997 (S/1997/21) concerning an addition to the list of Member States providing military observers to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They agree with the proposal contained in your letter.

(Signed) Hisashi OWADA
President of the Security Council

97-00678 (E) 100197 110197

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/23
10 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an urgent letter of today's date addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala (see annex), in which he refers to the matter that is to be dealt with today in the Security Council.

In accordance with the request contained herein, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-00714 (E) 100197

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Annex

Letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the informal consultations, that the Security Council is currently conducting under your able presidency on the reports of 17, 23 and 30 December 1996 (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2) in which the Secretary-General requested the Council to authorize the attachment to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) of a military component to verify implementation of the military aspects of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace signed in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996.

It may be useful for the members of the Security Council to know that in recent weeks separate consultations have taken place in both New York and Geneva between high-level delegations of the People's Republic of China and Guatemala. These consultations have addressed issues arising from the Secretary-General's reports referred to above, as well as the bilateral relations between the two countries. The purpose of this letter is to convey to you and, through you, to the other members of the Security Council the positions taken by the Guatemalan delegations in those consultations, in the hope that this may assist the Security Council in its work.

I wish to refer to the favourable results that we are all hoping for on the verification mission requested by both the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to the Secretary-General for demobilization and disarmament of former guerrilla combatants involved in the Guatemalan armed conflict. The Guatemalan delegations have reaffirmed the conviction of the Government of Guatemala that in accordance with the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations all countries should refrain from taking any action that may affect the territorial integrity or political independence of other countries and should not intervene in matters of their internal jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Guatemalan delegations have again confirmed their Government's full support for the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which asserts that any attempt aimed at the disruption of the national unity, territorial integrity or political independence of a State is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The Guatemalan delegations have stated that these principles will guide Guatemala's future actions at the United Nations with regard to initiatives related to Taiwan. Guatemala respects the contents of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Guatemala has never intended to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and fully supports the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is precisely as a result of this conviction that Guatemala has successfully completed a peace agreement to put an end to its internal conflict,

an agreement that requires for its implementation the peacekeeping mission requested from the Security Council.

With regard to attendance at the signature ceremony in Guatemala City on 29 December of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, the Government of Guatemala did not single out Taiwan or its Foreign Minister for invitation to the ceremony. On the contrary, the Government addressed invitations of a general nature to all the Governments with which it has diplomatic relations and left it to each of those Governments to decide the level at which it would be represented. Had circumstances permitted, the Government of Guatemala would have wanted to invite to this historic event representatives of additional countries, including all the members of the Security Council.

I would also like to convey to you the favourable and constructive opinion that our delegation in New York has reported on the bilateral conversations initiated by our delegation in Geneva with representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Guatemala is satisfied at the progress that has been made in the consultations in Geneva. It has the intention of continuing the dialogue initiated there on a number of bilateral issues, including trade, which is in perfect agreement with our foreign policy agenda, which will seek, after overcoming our internal armed confrontation, to pursue a better understanding and strengthening of our international relations, thus contributing to a better understanding among peoples, including a brighter future for China and Guatemala.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo STEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/24
10 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 January 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violations of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq being committed by Turkish armed forces.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-00702 (E) 130197 130197

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Annex

Letter dated 8 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to my letter of 5 December 1996 concerning the continuing violations of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq being committed by Turkish armed forces (S/1996/1018, annex) and should like to inform you that, on a variety of pretexts, such forces are still engaging in military operations inside Iraq's territory and in its airspace. The particulars are set forth hereunder.

1. On 18 November 1996 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the Iraqi villages of Harunah and Baytas.

2. On 20 November 1996 Turkish fighter aircraft bombarded the Iraqi village of Harunah.

3. Between 1525 and 1540 hours on 23 December 1996 two sorties by Turkish fighter aircraft were detected inside Iraqi airspace in the Amadiyah area.

4. On 30/31 December 1996 Turkish armed forces violated Iraqi territory and Iraqi airspace when ground forces estimated at brigade strength supported by fighter aircraft penetrated Iraqi territory to a depth of 3 kilometres in the Zakho area of northern Iraq.

In conveying to you the details of these Turkish violations, the Government of Iraq expresses its condemnation of such acts of military aggression. It does so because the practices of the Turkish forces, as represented by their repeated shelling of towns and villages in Iraq and their unlawful incursions into Iraqi territory, are in flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the inviolability of its territory and airspace, just as they are incompatible with relations of good-neighbourliness, the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement. These practices may also undermine stability in the region as a whole, which is suffering primarily from the anomalous situation created by the United States of America and its allies in northern Iraq.

As stated in my previous letter, the Turkish Government bears full international responsibility for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives.

The Government of Iraq reserves its legitimate right under international law to seek compensation for the damage caused by these Turkish violations of its territory and its airspace and for the human suffering inflicted on Iraqi citizens by these actions. Through you, it renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policy with respect to the situation in northern Iraq, to promote the collaboration of the two countries on the basis of considerations

of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty and to eliminate the reasons for the persistence of a situation that jeopardizes the interests of both countries.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to its Turkish neighbours to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED
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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1997/25
13 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 8 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP).

Brigadier General Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen (Finland), who has been the Commander of UNFICYP since 1 August 1994, will relinquish his post on 28 February 1997. Following consultations with the parties concerned, it is my intention to appoint Colonel Evergisto Arturo de Vergara of Argentina as the next Commander of UNFICYP. The Government of Argentina has informed me that Colonel de Vergara will be promoted to Major-General upon his appointment to this post.

I should be grateful if you would convey this information to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

97-00933 (E) 130197 140197

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/26
13 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 8 January 1997 (S/1997/25) concerning your intention to appoint Colonel Evergisto Arturo de Vergara of Argentina, who would be promoted to Major-General by the Government of Argentina, to succeed Brigadier General Ahti Toimi Paavali Vartiainen (Finland), as the next Commander of UNFICYP has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They agree with the intention contained in the letter.

(Signed) Hisashi OWADA
President of the Security Council

97-00939 (E) 130197 140197

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/27
13 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to submit to you herewith a copy of the letter from the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the completion of the peaceful reintegration of the region under the Transitional Administration, Republic of Croatia. The letter is signed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ivica Kostović, who is responsible for the reintegration policy in the Government.

May I request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

97-00897 (E) 130197 140197

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Annex

Letter from the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the completion of the peaceful reintegration of the region under the Transitional Administration, Republic of Croatia

1. Elections in the region under the Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) will be held on 16 March 1997, pursuant to the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (S/1995/951, annex), signed on 12 November 1995, under the authority of the Transitional Administrator, and according to procedures defined in the laws of the Republic of Croatia. Full opportunity shall be provided by the Government of Croatia to all persons eligible to vote in elections for local bodies of authority in the region to appear correctly on the voters' lists for and participate fully in these elections. Elections for local bodies of authority in other areas of the Republic of Croatia will be held on the same date.

Local bodies of authority in parts of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem counties, which are under the Transitional Administration, will be established, in accordance with the electoral results certified by the Transitional Administrator, and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Croatia, and paragraph 11 of Security Council resolution 1037 (1996), within the lawfully prescribed term but not later than 30 days after the elections.

2. Members of the local Serb ethnic community, as well as all other Croatian citizens, are eligible for local elections if they were resident ("prebivalište") at the time of the 1991 census, in parts of Osijek-Baranja and Vukovar-Srijem counties currently under the Transitional Administration. Possession of Croatian citizenship/identity documents (domovnica/osobna iskaznica) is an essential prerequisite for participation in the elections.

3. Pursuant to the Basic Agreement of 12 November 1995, Croatian citizens who are members of the Serb ethnic community, settled into the area prior to the beginning of the UNTAES mandate and are currently living in the area under the Transitional Administration, who were not domiciled in that particular area at the time of the 1991 census, may choose to vote for either (a) local bodies of authority established according to Croatian laws, provided that they are currently living in the areas covered by these bodies, whether the territory of these bodies is wholly or partially within such areas; or (b) such local bodies of authorities formed under Croatian laws in the area of their 1991 residence.

In order to obtain a register of those Serbs who were not residents of the said area at the time of the 1991 census, and who are currently living in the territory under UNTAES control, registration shall be organized by the Croatian authorities and UNTAES. The Croatian authorities will issue the citizenship/identity documents (domovnica/osobna iskaznica) to these persons in sufficient time to enable them to participate in the elections.

4. The Serb ethnic community from the area under the Transitional Administration is guaranteed to be represented in the bodies of local government

and self-government pursuant to the rights and principles laid down in the Constitutional Law on the Rights of Ethnic Communities and National Minorities, and the Law on Local Government and Self-Government. It is hereby guaranteed that they will hold the post of Sub-Prefect in both counties. Proportional Serb representation, including at senior positions, in the local health services, police and judiciary in the area, now constituting the region under the Transitional Administration, is guaranteed regardless of what administrative divisions may be introduced in the future. For at least the first year following local elections, the number of local police from the Serb and other non-Croat ethnic communities shall be approximately 700 to 800.

The members of the Serb ethnic community from the area currently under the Transitional Administration shall appoint a Joint Council of Municipalities. The leadership of the Joint Council of Municipalities shall meet at least once every four months directly with the President of the Republic or with the chief of the Presidential cabinet.

5. Following the next census of the population of the inhabitants of the Republic of Croatia, the number of seats reserved at subsequent elections for members of the Serb and other national minorities in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia shall reflect the proportion of their representation as determined by the census results.

6. With respect to representation in the House of Counties, the President of the Republic shall appoint, pursuant to the provisions of Article 71, paragraph 4, of the Constitution, two representatives from the Serb ethnic community as deputies in the House of Counties.

7. The representatives of the Serb ethnic community from the area under consideration will be appointed to senior posts in the Ministry of Reconstruction and Development and the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees and at a level not lower than Assistant Minister ("pomoćnik ministra") in the Ministries of Interior, Justice, Education and Culture. In accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Croatia, they will also be entitled to appropriate participation at the expert level in the working bodies of the Parliament of the Republic of Croatia.

8. The Government of Croatia, in accordance with existing Croatian laws and statutes and internationally accepted standards, hereby guarantees that the members of the Serb minority, and the members of other minorities within the area under the Transitional Administration, shall have full rights with respect to educational and cultural autonomy.

With respect to education, the members of the Serb minority, and the members of other minorities within the area under the Transitional Administration, shall be entitled to prepare and implement a curriculum that fosters cultural identity, history and heritage insofar as it does not prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to international educational standards and Croatian laws.

Within the cultural identity of the members of the Serb minority or any other member of other minorities within the above-mentioned area, they shall,

under the law, have full rights to preserve and foster individual cultural identity provided that it does not affect any right or privilege with respect to the rights of the Croatian members.

9. The members of the Serb ethnic community may establish a Council of the Serb Ethnic Community. The Council may apply to the President of the Republic and the Croatian Government, proposing and promoting the solution of issues of common interest for the national minority.

10. The Minister of Defence will enact a special decision for all the members of the Serb ethnic community from the area under the Transitional Administration on the deferment of military service for a period of two years from the end of the UNTAES mandate.

After the expiration of the two-year deferment period, applications for deferment of military service at the personal request of the members of the Serb ethnic community in the area under the Transitional Administration will be considered by the Ministry of Defence.

Exemptions specified above shall not limit in any way the relevant civic rights of those concerned, including the right to obtain a Croatian passport, which are guaranteed to all citizens of Croatia by the Constitution.

11. Members of the Serb and other ethnic communities from the area under the Transitional Administration who are war victims, particularly disabled, widows and children without parents, will have full health and social rights in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Croatia, except for the rights defined by the Law on the Rights of Croatian Defenders (Zakon o pravima hrvatskih branitelja).

12. The Government of the Republic of Croatia reaffirms in the present letter of intent its commitments deriving from and provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of National and Ethnic Communities or Minorities in the Republic of Croatia, all other relevant laws, the Basic Agreement of 12 November 1995, Security Council resolution 1037 (1996), and the Affidavit of Employment signed by the representative of the Government of Croatia on 16 December 1996. Nothing in this letter of intent shall be construed as diminishing in any way the provisions of the aforementioned documents.

(Signed) Ivica KOSTOVIĆ
Deputy Prime Minister

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/28
13 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 9 January 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The letter concerns violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and other warplanes coming from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1996 and acts of provocation against Iraqi civilian vessels inside Iraqi territorial waters committed by United States and other warships during the same period.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-00946 (E) 140197 140197 150197

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Annex

Letter dated 9 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to my letter of 6 July 1996 (S/1996/533, annex), which contained detailed information on the hostile actions undertaken by United States and other aircraft while violating Iraqi airspace from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait between 1 January and 30 June 1996. That letter also gave examples of provocative actions carried out by United States and other warships inside the territorial waters of the Republic of Iraq during the same period.

I should like in the present letter to alert you to the fact that between 1 July and 31 December 1996 United States and other warplanes continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq from military bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and to engage in such hostile, provocative and inflammatory actions as the dropping of heat flares in civilian areas and on civilian installations in Iraq. A number of United States and other warships also provoked Iraqi civilian vessels inside Iraqi territorial waters. These incidents, examples of which are set forth hereunder, were reported to the United Nations Secretariat and documented by us at the time they first occurred.

1. At 1945 hours on 5 July 1996 the Iraqi fishing boat Shatt al-Arab was subjected to a search by personnel from a United States frigate on station near the Iraqi port of Mina' al-Bakr.

2. At 1900 hours on 12 July 1996 the Australian frigate Melbourne (hull number 05) established contact with the Iraqi tug Taj al-Ma'arik and ordered it to heave to. At the same time, a helicopter overflew the tug. At 0615 hours on 13 July a rubber dinghy with 10 armed men on board approached the tug. The men boarded the tug and searched it, including its engine room.

3. At 1250 hours on 24 July 1996 a United States formation dropped a heat flare on the consolidated Nasiriyah water project in the Bid'ah area of the Shatrah district in southern Iraq.

4. At 2300 hours on 25 July 1996 a United States Navy helicopter proceeded to follow and provoke the Iraqi tender Al-Fida', preventing it from proceeding on its way and placing it in danger. At 0005 hours on 26 July the personnel of the United States helicopter contacted the crew of the tender and proceeded to search the vessel. United States warship No. 39 then approached and launched a boat with 18 United States Navy personnel on board. They boarded the tender, searched it and took the names of the crew members.

5. At 1100 hours on 4 August 1996 a United States formation dropped 10 heat flares in the Saddam Dam area of Ninawa Governorate in northern Iraq.

6. At 0930 hours on 19 August 1996 a United States helicopter hovered over the Iraqi fishing boat Zubaydi and ordered the master to heave to. United States

frigate No. 37 then approached it, and the personnel on board detained all of the crew members while the vessel was searched.

7. At 1300 hours on 18 September 1996 a United States helicopter hovered over the Iraqi tug Ninawa while it was at anchor in the deep-water port at Mina' al-Bakr. Its master was ordered to assemble his crew. A number of soldiers were lowered onto the tug, and they proceeded to search it, breaking all of the locks on the cabins and tanks. The ship's papers and the identity documents of the crew were taken, and information was demanded concerning the nationality of the crew members and the vessel's cargo.

8. At 0630 hours on 28 September 1996 personnel from a British frigate searched the Iraqi tug 7 Nisan. All of the locks on the doors were broken, the belongings of the crew were scattered about, and all the ship's papers and crew documents were copied. All the members of the crew were placed under restraint during the search.

9. At 0845 hours on 5 October 1996, while the Iraqi vessel Al-Bay'ah was under way, it was boarded by men from a United States helicopter. Eighteen United States soldiers, including an officer, boarded it and searched it.

10. At 1100 hours on 17 October 1996 the United States frigate Jarrett lowered a rubber dinghy with 15 men on board. They searched the Iraqi tug Diyala after boarding it and detaining its crew in the stern.

11. At 1200 hours on 20 December 1996 the United States frigate Stephen W. Groves lowered 10 men carrying sidearms in a rubber dinghy. They boarded the Iraqi tugs 7 Nisan and Al-Wahdah, which had the dredger Al-Murbadd in tow, and searched all three vessels.

We condemn these acts of aggression and provocation by the United States and others, and we request you to intervene with the countries in question, as is required of you in accordance with the responsibility entrusted to you under the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to halting and preventing any recurrence of such violations and unwarranted acts of aggression. The countries whose aircraft and ships carry out these acts and those in which the aircraft are based are to be held fully accountable for them, for the damage they cause and for the threats of a security-related, economic and moral nature that they pose to Iraq and the Iraqi people.

I likewise affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the material and other damage inflicted on it by the commission of acts that are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international public law, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/29
14 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND RUSSIAN

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its earlier relevant resolutions, and in particular its resolutions 779 (1992) of 6 October 1992, 981 (1995) of 31 March 1995, 1025 (1995) of 30 November 1995, 1038 (1996) of 15 January 1996, and 1066 (1996) of 15 July 1996,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 31 December 1996 (S/1996/1075),

Reaffirming once again its commitment to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia,

Noting the Joint Declaration signed at Geneva on 30 September 1992 by the Presidents of the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which reaffirmed their agreement concerning the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula, emphasizing the contribution that this demilitarization has made to the decrease of tension in the region, and stressing the need for the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to agree on a settlement which would peacefully resolve their differences,

Noting with concern the violations in the United Nations designated zones in the region and other activities, including restrictions on the freedom of movement of United Nations military observers, referred to in the report of the Secretary-General, which have dangerously increased tensions,

Welcoming the mutual recognition among all the successor States to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and stressing the importance of full normalization of relations among those States,

Commending the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, signed in Belgrade on 23 August 1996, committing the parties to resolve peacefully the disputed issue of Prevlaka by negotiations in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and good neighbourly relations,

Determining that the situation in Croatia continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. Authorizes the United Nations military observers to continue monitoring the demilitarization of the Prevlaka peninsula, in accordance with resolutions 779 (1992) and 981 (1995) and paragraphs 19 and 20 of the report of the Secretary-General of 13 December 1995 (S/1995/1028*), until 15 July 1997;

2. Urges the parties to abide by their mutual commitments and to implement fully the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stresses that these are critical for the establishment of peace and security throughout the region;

3. Calls upon the parties to adopt the practical options proposed by the United Nations military observers for the improvement of safety and security in the area as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General of 31 December 1996, and requests that the Secretary-General report by 15 April 1997 on progress made in implementing these practical options, in particular regarding the freedom of movement of the military observers throughout the entire area and respect for the demilitarization regime;

4. Calls upon the parties to cease and refrain from all violations and from military or other activities which may increase tension, to cooperate fully with the United Nations military observers and to ensure their safety and freedom of movement, including through the removal of landmines;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by 5 July 1997 a report for its early consideration on the situation in the Prevlaka peninsula as well as on progress made by the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia towards a settlement which would peacefully resolve their differences;

6. Requests the United Nations military observers and the multinational stabilization force (SFOR) authorized by the Council in resolution 1088 (1996) of 12 December 1996 to cooperate fully with each other;

7. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

UNITED NATIONS **A S**

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/58
S/1997/30
14 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 2 January 1997 (A/51/769-S/1997/6), I would like to state the following:

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the Israeli allegations against it in the above-mentioned letter. My Government underlines the fact that its assistance to the Lebanese people, who are resisting the long-standing Israeli occupation, is of a humanitarian and moral nature.

It is the usual practice of the Israeli regime to resort to a distortion of facts in order to justify the continuation of its illegal occupation of southern Lebanon and the other occupied territories.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-01030 (E) 140197

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/31
14 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the present response to the allegations made by the representative of the Sudan's National Islamic Front (NIF) regime to the United Nations in his two letters (S/1996/1007 of 5 December 1996 and S/1997/11 of 6 January 1997), both addressed to the President of the Security Council and circulated to member States as documents of the Council.

In the annex to the first letter, the representative of the NIF regime itemized a long list of what he referred to as "Eritrean acts of aggression" allegedly perpetrated between 1 February and 15 October 1996. The annex to his second letter contains another detailed list of similar acts, said to have taken place between 15 October and 31 December 1996. These baseless charges by the NIF regime are purposely fabricated to divert the attention of the international community from the grim course of events prevailing in the Sudan. It is needless to stress that the general situation in the Sudan is progressively deteriorating, with the consequent effects of increasing dissatisfaction of and rising opposition by the people.

This volatile situation, which is shaking its foundation, remains the actual concern that the NIF regime is desperately labouring to disguise by accusing others. Having said this, I would like to reiterate that my Government does not have any involvement in the acts enumerated above in the two letters of the representative of the Sudanese regime to the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amdemicael KAHSAI
Permanent Representative

97-01057 (E) 140197

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/32
14 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, concerning the Ethiopian aggression against Sudanese territory in the Blue Nile State, on the country's eastern borders, addressed to the Security Council.

I would like to request you to bring the contents of this urgent letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council so that they may take appropriate measures.

I would also request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

97-01074 (E) 140197 140197

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 13 January 1997 from Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, addressed to the President of the Security Council

Sir

1. As you are aware, the Sudan has been keeping the Security Council regularly informed about the acts of provocation and aggression committed by Ethiopia on the Sudan's eastern borders (documents S/1996/29 and S/1996/255). The Sudan has exercised self-restraint in the face of the Ethiopian aggression in an attempt to settle the dispute peacefully in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. However, I regret to inform you and, through you, the members of the Security Council, that Ethiopia has carried out further acts of aggression against Sudanese territory as follows:

(a) On Sunday, 12 January 1997, the Ethiopian army attacked Sudanese territory with heavy artillery (120 mm guns and 130 mm shells) from within Ethiopian territory. The shelling started at 5.30 a.m. and continued until 11.30 a.m., resulting in the destruction of the town of Kurmuk, capital of the governorate of Kurmuk in the Blue Nile State.

(b) On Sunday, 12 January 1997, at 3 p.m., those same forces shelled Gizan, Yarada and Menze, towns on the border between the two countries.

(c) The shelling of these towns was followed by an attack by one Ethiopian infantry division comprising 6,000 men supported by 22 tanks. The Ethiopian forces were accompanied by a few elements of the rebel movement, the so-called Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) under the command of Ethiopian officers. The attack resulted in the occupation of the above-mentioned areas.

(d) On the morning of Monday, 13 January 1997, the invading Ethiopian forces continued to advance inside Sudanese territory and continued to shell the Sudanese towns of Shally and Daim Mansour with the intention of occupying them.

2. I would like to draw your attention to the following geographical facts which leave no room for any possible denial by Ethiopia of the heinous crime it has committed.

(a) The areas attacked and overrun by the Ethiopian army are located exactly on the border between the two countries. Ethiopian government forces are permanently stationed a few hundred metres across the border inside Ethiopian territory.

(b) The sole and only access to the attacked Sudanese areas is across the Ethiopian border and from the Ethiopian military camps established there.

(c) The continuous heavy artillery shelling that preceded the attack was directed from within Ethiopian territory. The attack was launched exactly from the positions of the Ethiopian armed forces where these forces had assembled in preparation for the attack.

3. The Ethiopian aggression constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, international norms and the principles of good-neighbourliness. It also represents a serious threat to international peace and security. This aggression, which follows a series of violations committed by Ethiopia against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Sudan, could result in a generalized confrontation in the region; this would affect international peace and security.

4. While reserving its right to self-defence which is recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Sudan would like to draw the Council's attention to this situation so that it may hold an emergency meeting to discuss the matter and to take whatever measures are necessary to secure the respect by Ethiopia for the letter and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, and to compel it to withdraw its forces from Sudanese territory and to refrain from any further aggression of that nature in the future.

(Signed) Ali Osman Mohamed Taha
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Sudan

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/33
14 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 864 (1993) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, which was adopted by the Committee under the no-objection procedure on 13 January 1997 and is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 864 (1993)
concerning the situation in Angola

97-01080 (E) 150197

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 1996.

2. A report of the Committee was submitted to the Security Council previously on 17 January 1996 (S/1996/37) and covered the activities of the Committee since its establishment in 1993 until 31 December 1995.

II. SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

3. At its 9th meeting, on 3 January 1996, the Committee elected its bureau for 1996, which consisted of Mr. Nabil Elaraby (Egypt) as Chairman, with the delegations of Honduras and Indonesia providing the two Vice-Chairmen. The Committee held two meetings in 1996.

4. The Committee considered a case of an alleged violation of the embargo against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

III. ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL

5. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 1045 (1996) of 8 February 1996, the Security Council reaffirmed the obligation of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993.

6. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 1055 (1996) of 8 May 1996, the Security Council reaffirmed the obligation of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993) and reiterated that continuing acquisition of weapons would be contrary to paragraph 12 of resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February 1995 and undermine confidence in the peace process.

7. In paragraph 18 of its resolution 1064 (1996) of 11 July 1996, the Security Council reaffirmed the obligation of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993), and noted with concern that the failure by States, in particular those neighbouring Angola, to do so was inconsistent with the peace process and undermined economic recovery. In paragraph 19 of the resolution, the Council reiterated that continuing acquisition of weapons would be contrary to paragraph 12 of resolution 976 (1995) and would undermine confidence in the peace process.

8. In paragraph 13 of its resolution 1075 (1996) of 11 October 1996, the Security Council expressed its readiness to consider the imposition of measures, including, inter alia, those specifically mentioned in paragraph 26 of resolution 864 (1993), unless, by 20 November 1996, the Secretary-General had reported that UNITA had made substantial and genuine progress in fulfilling its tasks in the "mediation document" formulated by the Secretary-General's Special Representative in consultation with the observer States and its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol. In paragraph 16 of the resolution, the Council reiterated its concern over the acquisition of weapons contrary to paragraph 12 of resolution 976 (1995), which undermined confidence in the peace process. In paragraph 17 the Council reaffirmed the obligation of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993), called upon all States to take the necessary actions to implement the provisions of paragraphs 19 to 25 of resolution 864 (1993) vigorously and strictly, and expressed deep concern that the failure by States, especially those neighbouring Angola, to do so was inconsistent with the peace process and undermined economic recovery.

9. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 1087 (1996) of 11 December 1996, the Security Council reiterated its concern over the acquisition of weapons contrary to paragraph 12 of resolution 976 (1995), while the peace process was under way. In paragraph 15 of the resolution, the Council reaffirmed the obligation of all States to implement fully the provisions of paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993), called upon all States to take the necessary actions to implement the provisions of paragraphs 19 to 25 of resolution 864 (1993) vigorously and strictly, and expressed deep concern that the failure by States, especially those neighbouring Angola, to do so was inconsistent with the peace process and undermined economic recovery.

IV. OBSERVATIONS

10. The Committee reiterates its readiness to act, in accordance with its mandate, towards enhancing the implementation of the mandatory measures, thereby contributing to the success of the peace process.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/34
15 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 15 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 13 January 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the Government of Iran's rejection of the request of the Government of Iraq that the perpetrators of the terrorist crime involving an attempt on the life of Mr. Udayy Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, should either be extradited or brought to trial in Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-01145 (E) 160197 160197

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Annex

Identical letters dated 13 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Further to my letters of 26 and 30 December 1996 (S/1996/1076) concerning the heinous crime involving an attempt on the life of Mr. Udayy Saddam Hussein, Chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee and son of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, I should like to call your attention to the fact that the Iranian Government has rejected the Government of Iraq's request that the perpetrators of the terrorist offence in question should be extradited so as to get their just deserts or that it should try them itself for the crime, as required by the rules of international law applicable to cases of terrorism.

By its note No. 21-3087 of 8 January 1997, the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad returned the two notes that had been addressed to it by the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting that the perpetrators should either be handed over to the Iraqi authorities or brought to trial in Iran. The Embassy stated only that the charges made in the notes were groundless, unacceptable and outside the scope of diplomatic affairs, and it did not address the matter of the terrorist activities of the Da'wah Party. The Party uses Iran as a base and receives the support and backing of the Iranian Government, in violation of international law and, in particular, of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In presenting this negative attitude adopted by Iran, I once again request you to intervene with the Iranian Government with a view to inducing it to honour its international commitments by bringing the perpetrators to trial or by surrendering them to the Iraqi authorities for that purpose.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/35
15 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers resolution 14/24-P, which the Conference adopted at its twenty-fourth session, held in Jakarta from 9 to 13 December 1996. The resolution concerns the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States, the United Kingdom and France on the other.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Sunni MUNTASSER
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-01132 (E) 160197 160197

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Annex

[Original: English]

Resolution No. 14/24-P on the crisis between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the one hand and the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France on the other

The twenty-fourth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (session of Fraternity and Corporation), held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia, from 28 Rajab to 3 Shaaban, 1417H (9-13 December 1996),

Having studied the item concerning the current crisis between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, on the one hand, and the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the Republic of France on the other;

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations which stipulates that all Member States are committed to refrain from the use or the threat of use of force in their international relations, the settlement of their disputes by peaceful means, respect for the independence of all Member States and refrain from any threat to their sovereignty, territorial integrity and safety of their people;

Reaffirming the resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference No. 13/7-P (IS) on this crisis as well as all previous Islamic resolutions and statements issued by the regional organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Non-Aligned Movement, all of which have called for solidarity with the Great Jamahiriya and have supported its efforts aiming at the achievement of a peaceful solution for the crisis within the framework of respect for the Libyan national sovereignty and principles of international law;

Taking note of the stand of the Great Jamahiriya that denounces all forms and types of terrorism and condemns all those that use or encourage it, and its willingness to cooperate with any international or regional efforts exerted for the solution of this problem;

Expressing satisfaction with the positive initiatives undertaken by the Great Jamahiriya for the solution of this crisis and its acceptance of the United Nations Security Council resolution 731 (1992) and its request to the United Nations Secretary-General to find out the mechanism for the implementation of this resolution while expressing its complete readiness to cooperate within the context of the initiatives it has taken and the proposals it has put forward;

Expressing its deep concern over the humanitarian and material damage inflicted upon the Libyan Arab people and the neighbouring peoples, as a result of the unjust sanctions imposed in implementation of unjust Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993);

Expressing its regret over the disregard and neglect, by the three Western States, of the successive resolutions adopted by the regional organizations so as to ensure a just and equitable solution to the dispute;

And reaffirming the risks posed by the continuation without a solution acceptable to all parties concerned of this crisis (Lockerbie) to the security and peace of the world, particularly to the North African and Mediterranean regions;

Proceeding from the principles and Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference calling for promoting Islamic solidarity among the Member States;

Referring to paragraph 163 of the final document adopted by the eleventh session of the Non-Aligned Movement summit No. NAC11/DOC-1/REV.2, dated 20 October 1995;

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on this crisis (document No. ICFM/24-96/PIL/D.8);

1. Expresses its appreciation to the declaration of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of its repeated condemnation of terrorism and its full readiness to cooperate within the context of efforts exerted by any quarter to combat and suppress terrorism. It commends the spirit of responsibility and self-restraint with which the Great Jamahiriya is handling this crisis;

2. Expresses its concern over the escalation of the crisis and the threat to impose further sanctions or to use force as a means of interaction among States, and thereby violating the United Nations Charter as well as international laws and norms;

3. Affirms its solidarity with the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and recommends to all parties concerned to avoid all procedures that may lead to the escalation of tension which is detrimental to the Libyan people and neighbouring States;

4. Expresses its appreciation to the willingness of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to settle the dispute peacefully and cooperate in conducting a useful dialogue with the parties to the conflict;

5. Condemns the continuation of sanctions against the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya despite the efforts and initiatives of various regional and international organizations aimed at achieving a peaceful and just solution according to international law;

6. Reiterates its appeal to the Security Council to consider its resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993) and lift the sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahiriya;

7. Calls upon all parties concerned to respond to the call for dialogue and negotiation aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the crisis in accordance with Article 33 of Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter, which stipulates the resolution of crises by negotiations, mediation and legal settlement according to the rules of international law. It also calls for giving suspected individuals a just and fair trial in a neutral country agreed upon by the parties concerned;

8. Declares its support for the proposal made in the resolution adopted by the League of Arab States No. 5373-DA, (101)-C3) on 27 March 1993 calling for the holding of a just trial of the two suspects by Scottish judges in accordance with Scottish law at the seat of the International Court of Justice in The Hague and for urging the Security Council to take into consideration this serious proposal to seek a peaceful solution so as to avoid any escalation of the situation that may result in increasing the tension in the region;

9. Supports the right of the Great Jamahiriya to appropriate reparations for material and human losses and damages it sustained as a result of implementation of Security Council resolutions No. 731 (1992), 748 (1992) and 883 (1993);

10. Affirms its solidarity with the Great Jamahiriya in defending its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and in confronting the economic boycott measures which undermine development plans therein;

11. Calls upon the three Western States to respond positively to the requests and proposals made by regional organizations and the flexibility displayed by the Great Jamahiriya to settle the crisis peacefully, and considers that failure to respond positively to these endeavours delayed considerably the realization of a solution to the crisis and redoubled the hardships experienced by the Libyan people, and that the continuation of these sanctions would prompt Islamic States to consider possible means to avert inflicting further damages on the Libyan people and to alleviate their suffering;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to follow up this matter and to submit a report thereon to the Member States.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/36
15 January 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you in the annex below the relevant clarifications which the Government of Burundi is providing to the Security Council through its Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on:

1. The noticeable improvement of security in Burundi;

2. The growing alliance between the forces of order and the population in their joint fight against the common enemy, namely, the terrorists who are wreaking havoc upon an innocent people;

3. The massive return of the population driven earlier into internal and external exile by armed bands;

4. A trenchant refutation of the false allegations by some humanitarian organizations, more specifically Amnesty International, concerning the massacres that it tendentiously attributed to the security forces of Burundi;

5. The real situation, in which the victims whose cause was taken up by Amnesty International and some other humanitarian groups, were merely assailants disguised as refugees and their concealed accomplices, who were neutralized by the forces of order which came to the assistance of the civilian population under attack;

6. The severity of the sanctions, both military and legal, imposed on some elements of the army of Burundi that are guilty of isolated cases of extortion in some towns in the country;

7. The repeated request made by the Government of Burundi to the United Nations in order to obtain international observers for the purpose of shedding new light on the authenticity of the facts;

8. The commitment reaffirmed by the new regime to negotiate with all the parties to the conflict, the determination reflected by the sending of the

ministerial delegation for this purpose last December to Arusha, to the former President of the Republic of Tanzania, Mwalimu J. Nyerere;

9. The devastating impact of the economic embargo on the entire innocent people of Burundi and the enormous obstacles caused by these measures to the negotiations and the peace process and, therefore, the urgent need to lift the embargo as speedily as possible, as several recent summit meetings have called for;

10. The beginning, at the end of January 1997, of the national debate on the restoration of peace and national reconciliation.

The Government of Burundi would be very grateful if you would have this statement distributed to the Security Council as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Nsanze TERENCE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 15 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burundi addressed to the President of the Security Council

As you know, in a recent communication addressed to your predecessor, I informed the members of the Security Council about the important decisions and recommendations adopted respectively during the summit meetings in Rome on food, in Brazzaville on security in Central Africa, and in Ouagadougou, where the heads of State of Africa and France met. During these summits, it was generally recognized that there was an urgent need to lift the illegal and inhuman embargo imposed on the people of Burundi and to encourage the Government of Burundi to commit itself, in particular, to the process of dialogue and reconciliation with all the citizens of Burundi.

Today, I should like to report on the current situation, which is developing in a positive way in my country. For several weeks, there has been a noticeable improvement in security, mainly in the capital and urban centres. In the interior of the country, the population is collaborating more effectively with the local government and the forces of order in combating the terrorists and their armed bands. There is also a massive return, throughout the country, of the population groups which had been deceived or taken hostage by the armed rebels.

Nevertheless, there are still cases in which terrorists blindly massacre, as usual, the innocent civilian population. These attacks have been made possible and have been encouraged by the embargo, which deprives the State of the means that are essential for defending and protecting its citizens.

With respect to the refugees who are returning from neighbouring countries, particularly Zaire, after the events in Kivu, the Government of Burundi has made all the arrangements to receive them and resettle them in their regions of origin, on their property or in temporary sites when security is not yet completely guaranteed in those regions.

Some human rights organizations, particularly Amnesty International, have recently reported allegations that repatriated persons had been executed by the security forces of Burundi in or around certain churches in the country.

The fact of the matter is that some of these repatriated persons are returning with arms along the border with Zaire under the cover of the repatriation movement and are coming up against the firm attitude of the forces of order, whose main mission is to protect the population. Other refugees have preferred to travel with arms and baggage to the Republic of Tanzania, from where they destabilize Burundi, particularly through murderous incursions carried out against the innocent civilian population. It must nevertheless be acknowledged that certain unfortunate mistakes were committed in the towns of Murambi, Kizuka and, most recently, Kobero.

The Government deplores these cases and has ordered investigations to be conducted in order to establish the responsibility for such acts. Some members of the forces of order who have been deemed responsible for those crimes have been arrested and are awaiting trial. The concern with regard to the situation of the refugees cannot overshadow an agonizing everyday tragedy: the armed terrorists, committing massacres of innocent people even during the period of the rebellion by the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD), had deceived the international community by declaring a fictitious truce.

Furthermore, with regard to the allegations by Amnesty International concerning the so-called massacre of innocent persons by the forces of order in a church in Butaganzwa, the truth of the matter is that these forces, in collaboration with the local government officials and the surrounding population, launched an operation to free citizens of Burundi taken hostage by the rebels and the latter were annihilated. It is not a question therefore of innocent civilians who had been killed, as claimed by that organization, which was deceived by informants acting in bad faith. In all these cases, the Government of Burundi asked for international observers to be sent to our country in order to establish the facts. It urgently reiterates the same request.

With regard to the "rounding up of population groups", another argument recently put forward by certain circles in order to maintain the embargo, we must remember that these round-ups were caused, in October 1993, by the acts of genocide. In this way, centres of "displaced persons" came about in an almost spontaneous manner. More recently, round-ups of population groups in conflict with armed groups have been carried out in order to protect the lives of innocent citizens during military operations. The Government will spare no effort to help these people to continue agricultural activities enabling them to ensure their own subsistence and resettle in their villages as soon as possible. Greater humanitarian assistance would make it possible to improve the living conditions of these groups in difficult circumstances.

With respect to the question of the negotiations, I should like once again to reaffirm, through this letter, the determination of the Government of Burundi to conduct frank negotiations with all the parties involved in the conflict in Burundi, including the armed factions. The Government has already in fact officially indicated the various stages of the peace process. Quite recently, the Government of Burundi replied to the invitation by the Facilitator, the former Tanzanian President, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, to whom it reiterated the commitment to carry out fully the process of negotiations, while at the same time indicating the obstacles and constraints linked to the embargo, which is unjustly and harshly affecting the people of Burundi and impeding chances for a return to peace through calm negotiation.

The other stage in the search for peace through dialogue is the organization of the national debate, which is to begin at the end of January 1997.

The three stages in the dialogue indicated at the summit of the heads of State of the region last October have thus been perfectly initiated. No other

pretext should be invoked any longer to maintain the economic embargo, which is gradually stifling the peace process and strangling the people of Burundi.

In view of the improvement in the field of security and the determination of the Government of Burundi to carry out its peace programme and in light of the recommendations by the various summits, including that of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, we once again request the Security Council to use its prerogatives to lift the embargo against Burundi immediately in order to promote the negotiation process and the return to peace.

(Signed) Dr. Luc RUKINGAMA
Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Cooperation

UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/37
15 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a press statement issued on 14 January 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in response to the baseless accusations and statement made by the Sudanese authorities in Khartoum calling for nationwide mobilization and Jihad against Ethiopia.

I also wish to inform you that the Government of Ethiopia will transmit to you the appropriate response to the latest baseless accusation of the Government of Sudan which is circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/1997/32 of 14 January 1997).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Berhanemeskel NEGA
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

97-01126 (E) 150197

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Annex

Press statement

No one who has followed closely the activities in foreign policy of the new Ethiopia and of the Federal Democratic Republic can doubt the deep commitment of the country and its peoples to live in peace with its neighbours, including with the Sudan. Nor can it be denied, including by the Sudanese authorities, that Ethiopia has made all the necessary efforts, within the framework of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought (IGAD), to assist in the search for peace in the Sudan. Despite the frustrations encountered so far, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia will continue, along with other members of IGAD, to do whatever is practically possible to help in the resolution of the crisis in the Sudan.

On the other hand, it has also been obvious to all those who follow the developments in our subregion that the Sudanese authorities have shown little respect, not only to their own people, but also to their neighbours, including to Ethiopia. Often this has been reflected in the most blatant forms of acts of destabilization and betrayal of friendship and trust, one instance of which is still before the Security Council. At other times, the insanity in Khartoum takes the form of a call for Jihad against its neighbours, the latest example of which was a declaration issued by the representative of the Sudanese Government in Mogadishu calling for Jihad against Ethiopia. There have been still other occasions when the Sudanese authorities have deemed it useful to ascribe to others the responsibilities for their domestic problems or for their military setbacks.

The latest such attempt by the Sudanese authorities to shift responsibility onto others, which is also accompanied by the beating of the drums of war, with a call for general mobilization and for Jihad, took place on 13 January 1997, following the reported takeover of Kurmuk by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army. As often happens when the National Islamic Front suffers military defeat, an alibi is being sought by Khartoum by accusing Ethiopia of involvement in military activities against Sudanese troops. It is to be expected that this accusation would be taken by the National Islamic Front Government to the Security Council, with the additional aim of diverting the attention of the Council from the unfinished business before it in connection with a proved case of State-sponsored terrorism and an assassination attempt by Sudanese authorities against a head of State.

At the time of the release of this press statement, the sabre-rattling is continuing in Khartoum and the National Islamic Front authorities are feverishly trying to convince the Sudanese people and the international community that their apparent military debacle was of Ethiopia's making. No one knows better than the Sudanese authorities themselves that the accusation has no basis and that Ethiopia has no hand in what is obviously a military setback suffered by the authorities in Khartoum. It is to be noted that this is not the first time the Sudanese accusatory finger was pointed at Ethiopia over the past two years whenever similar military defeats have been suffered by the Sudanese authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia wishes to remind the Sudanese authorities that no useful purpose would be served by striving to externalize what they know too well is an internal military debacle, for which Ethiopia has absolutely no responsibility. It is time for the Sudanese authorities to realize that they cannot always succeed in fooling others and to stop believing that fabrications accompanied by great fanfare will be given the benefit of the doubt and some credence by the international community. This would only hurt the Sudan and would not be in the interest of peace in our subregion.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1997/38
16 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, and with reference to Iraq's letters contained in documents S/1996/1076 and S/1997/3, I have the honour to state the following.

A number of Iraqi opposition groups, both inside and outside Iraq, have claimed responsibility for the assassination attempt mentioned in Iraq's letters. Iraq's attempt to blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for its chaotic domestic problems is an old and dull trick. But it clearly indicates that Iraq has not truly changed its policy of hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran despite the many euphemistic references its officials have made to the rule of law, friendly relations and neighbourliness in their relations with Iran.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejects all trickeries, fabrications and mere allegations in the above-mentioned letters and herewith confirms that the letters are generated as pre-emptive schemes to conceal or at least divert attention from Iraq's escalated instigation of and support for a terrorist group to carry out trans-border armed attacks from Iraqi territory against Iran. In the past two months alone, five such armed attacks have been organized in Iraq and carried out against the Islamic Republic of Iran. A large number of intruders from Iraq have been captured and are going through the judicial process; a number of them died in the clashes at the points of entry and some retreated to Iraq. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran holds the Government of Iraq responsible for these violations of its territorial integrity and for the consequences which the pure lies and fabrications of that Government may bring about.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

97-01233 (E) 160197

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1997/39
16 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan and the annex thereto, circulated as Security Council document S/1997/32 of 14 January 1997, and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, addressed to you in response to the baseless accusation of the Government of the Sudan against Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Berhanemeskel NEGA
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.

97-01311 (E) 160197

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Annex

Letter dated 16 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to the letter dated 13 January 1997 from Mr. Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan, addressed to you. I would also like to draw your attention to the press statement that my Ministry issued on the matter on 14 January 1997, which was transmitted to you for circulation as a document of the Security Council.

Permit me from the outset to reiterate, in the most categorical manner, the response of my Government to the accusation of the Sudanese Government against Ethiopia and its defence forces as contained in the above-mentioned press statement by my Ministry. Ethiopia and its defence forces had no role in the military setback suffered by the Government of the Sudan in its Blue Nile State. Outrageous and baseless claims were made in the letter from the Foreign Minister of the Sudan which are completely out of character for Ethiopia.

Would any one believe that Ethiopia, which has handled with wisdom and patience the various blatant provocations against it by the Sudanese authorities, including the state-sponsored terrorism they carried out in its capital against a head of State, suddenly change tack and engage in the kind of activities attributed to it by the Sudan? This would be unbecoming of the new Ethiopia and our country has resisted and will continue to resist being dragged by the Sudanese authorities into imitating the insane policy that they have been following towards their neighbours, including towards Ethiopia. This despite the very many crimes committed by the Government of the Sudan against Ethiopia. If there are rogue States in the world, there is little doubt that the Government in Khartoum would top the list. The Security Council has ample evidence to corroborate this claim. The Khartoum Government is still awaiting a proper verdict from the Security Council in connection with the assassination attempt against President Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Undoubtedly, the Sudanese authorities have convinced themselves that they would not get from the Security Council more than a minor slap on the wrist on this grave issue. Accordingly, it appears to have concluded that it can continue to flout openly and in a shameless manner all the rules of international law and the norms of civilized behaviour.

The call made on 29 December 1996 by Mr. Ali Hassan Ali, the Sudanese representative in Mogadishu, for a Jihad against Ethiopia by Somalis is one of the latest instances confirming that the present regime in Khartoum is deliberately committed to activities that undermine international law and the Charter of the United Nations and thus consign our subregion to a state of perpetual instability. The call was all the more diabolical because it was made during the most critical phase of the Sodere High-level Consultation of the Somali faction leaders, a process that was publicly supported by the Sudan as a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought (IGAD) family. It should not, however, be assumed that this kind of irresponsible utterance is limited to

low-level Sudanese officials. I trust that you have been following the latest developments in the Sudan, in which the country's President and other senior officials of the country have been inciting their people for Jihad against Ethiopia and against others.

This latest accusation levelled against Ethiopia by the Sudan is patently aimed at providing an alibi for the military setback visited upon it by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and its allies.

Those who follow closely the developments in our region know full well that Ethiopia has, along with other members of IGAD, made all the necessary efforts for peace in the Sudan and for an equitable solution to the crisis in that country. Ethiopia will continue this effort because it is convinced that peace is indivisible in our region. All the more so because of the history of instability in our subregion which is not yet over. As such, Ethiopia is convinced that there is a vital need to put a stop to this cycle of violence. In this regard, there can be no doubt that the major source of instability and chaos in our subregion at the present time is the extremist regime in Khartoum. Can one conclude otherwise about a regime that calls for a Jihad through its representative in Mogadishu against a Government that is working for peace in Somalia and that has assisted the Somalis to take the most significant step in three years towards national reconciliation?

I wish to appeal to you to ensure that the Security Council is not diverted by this latest Sudanese diversionary tactic from the major responsibility that the Council is still required to discharge with regard to taking the most appropriate measures against the Khartoum Government for the assassination attempt it supported and masterminded against the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Ethiopia has made all the necessary efforts to ensure that the Sudan would hand over to Ethiopia those who were implicated in the attempt and who continue to be harboured by the Khartoum Government. Our bilateral effort was in vain and the efforts of the Organization of African Unity were likewise without results. I know you are fully aware that the Sudanese authorities have continued to prevaricate, since the matter has been referred by Ethiopia to the Security Council.

The latest accusation by the Sudan cannot be viewed outside this context because it is part of the same diversionary tactic which must by now be familiar to the Security Council. Not that the Sudanese regime has no internal problems regarding which, as I have pointed out earlier, Ethiopia and other IGAD member States have always demonstrated their goodwill to be of help. But the Sudan has chosen to accuse Eritrea, when it faced military setback in the north-east, Ethiopia, when the opposition put the Sudanese regime on the defensive in the east, and Uganda, when it was faced with a military debacle in the south. The Sudanese Government should not be allowed to continue to externalize its domestic crisis and, in the process, defame its neighbours such as Ethiopia.

Under these circumstances, and given the threat that the Khartoum regime poses to Ethiopia's security, my country has no option but to remain always vigilant, with a view to exercising its right of self-defence against a regime that the Security Council knows has become a menace to the peace and stability of the entire subregion.

(Signed) Seyoum MESFIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs